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## RAILROAD BRAKE SHOES

Two railroad brake "shoes" (the part of a train braking system that goes against the wheels to provide the friction for braking). The larger one is from a locomotive and the smaller from a log hauling car.

From equipment used by the Warn Lumber Company.

Handmade Split Shingles

## GEOLOGY COLLECTION

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Dolls from the  
Collection of  
Fannie Golden  
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Pocahontas Historical Society

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## PRESSURE COOKER/CANNER

This early pressure/cooker is from  
the Warner Farm on Williams River.  
(Now part of the Hundley Wildlife  
Management Area.

## MACINTOSH 512 COMPUTER

Used by *The Pocahontas Times* following the Flood of 1985. The sudden change in equipment caused by the flooding of the newspaper's office resulted in the paper becoming about the fourth newspaper in West Virginia to fully computerized its operations

*The Pocahontas Times*

## THE CORNER OAKS

The oldest corner trees in the Mississippi Valley were located in Marlinton and were still alive into the 20th Century. They stood along today's Rt. 39 between Fourth and Fifth Avenues. One of the trees was cut about 1920 and the other died in the great drought of 1930. The stump of the second tree remained in place until 1979. The trees, both oaks, were called at various times Charter Oaks, King George Oaks, and Corner Oaks.

These trees were used as corner trees in 1751 by Col. Andrew Lewis, who was surveying for the Greenbrier Company. The Greenbrier Company had received the right to a large tract of land in the Greenbrier River Valley in 1745. On October 6, 1751, Col. Lewis used the oaks as a corner of a survey of 470 acres, taking in the bottom land along the river, between Stony Creek and Knapps Creek.

Many of today's deeds can be traced backed to the 1751 survey and the corner marked by these trees.

This piano was transported by sled from Augusta County, Virginia, in the early 1800s. It was originally owned by the Clark Family of Hillsboro.

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For our younger visitors: the expression "dialing a phone number" comes from this style phone. Phones with a "rotary" dialing mechanism were used from the 1890s until being phased out, which started in the 1970s.

usually each time the water was up in the river, lumber was put together into rafts and floated to Ronceverte. Many things could go wrong in the ten to 13 hour trip and the pilot of the raft had to know every rock, rapid, shoal, and current at all levels of water.

The few photos that exist today cannot begin to indicate what it must have like to take part in a log drive or handle a raft of lumber in the high water of the Greenbrier River.

The construction of the Greenbrier Division of the C&O Railway in 1899-1900 brought an immediate end to shipping lumber by the river. The log drives continued for a few more years, with the logs coming out of Knapps Creek. Finally, in 1908 an fascinating part of the history of Pocahontas County came to an end with the last log drive down the river.

## L. C. Smith Manual Typewriter

Roger & Sue Helton

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Photo of Anna V. Hunter, left, who owned the house now housing the Pocahontas County Historical Museum, and author Pearl S. Buck, who was born at Hillsboro, taken on June 5, 1963, during the dedication of the museum. Carolyn Burns is at the right.

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View of the arks that were the sleeping and eating quarters for the men on the log drives on the Greenbrier River. An ark was also provided for horses.

Sawmill of the Warn Lumber Company at Warntown, near Mill Point.

Typical home for the men cutting timber, location unkown.

Track workers on a logging railroad. The men in this picture are typical of the foreign born track workers employed by the lumber companies in this area, Italians, Hungarians, and Austrians. Few, if any, settled locally, moving on to other jobs in other areas when the lumber operations in the Greenbrier Valley closed.

".... the trees whispered above me and trembled for timber rang out over the land, they had been there for thousands of years and feared the pain of the axeman's hand . . . ."

from Cass, West Virginia, by Ann Coffman

The history of the lumber history in the Greenbrier Valley can be divided into at least three periods based on the dominant form of the way logs were moved from woods to mill. The first was from the 1870's to 1908 and involved the use of water to move the logs. This period can also be referred to the as the White Pine Era since this was the timber cut.

The location of the white pine along the Greenbrier River and its major tributaries and the buoyancy of the tree allowed it to be harvested before a railroad was built into Pocahontas County. The principal operator of the white pine was the St. Lawrence Boom and Manufacturing Company. This company was organized in 1871 and located its mill at Ronceverte. "Boom" refers to the company's authority to place structures in the river that catch floating logs. The first use of the river by the St. Lawrence company to transport logs may have been in 1872, again in 1874, and without question in 1876. The logs for the 1876 "drive" on the river were cut on Sitlington Creek in Pocahontas County.

From this beginning a pattern was set for the next 30+ years. In the late summer lumber camps would open and the cutting of the white pine (and some hemlock) would begin. By late winter the logs would be piled along the banks of the creeks, waiting for the high water. To move the logs to the river, "splash dams" were constructed to hold water that was released as needed to supplement the natural flow.

When the high waters came, the logs were floated to Ronceverte. If the lumbermen were lucky, the logs might in the boom in a few days. If the water fell too soon, the logs would be stranded and it was necessary to wait for the next "tide" in the river. In only one year, 1894, did the water fail completely and most of the logs went to the boom the next year.

To provide facilities for feeding and housing the loggers during the drive, "arks" were constructed and floated behind the logs. An ark was also provided for horses used to pulled beached logs back into the river.

The Williams River was also used to transport logs. Drives of timber cut in Pocahontas County about 1895 and lasted until at least 1903. The logs went to a mill at Camden-on-Gauley in Webster County.

The river was also used to transport lumber. From very early in the history of Pocahontas County, a number of sawmills existed, usually as a part of the equipment at a grist mill. However, the production was limited and no more than was needed locally. Also, there was no way to transport the lumber to distant markets due to the very rudimentary road system. After the Civil War the use of steam powered sawmills increased lumber production and the railroad at Ronceverte provided access to markets. Getting the lumber to the railroad was still a problem and, as with logs, the river provided the means of transportation. During the 1880's and 1890's,

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Today, much of the land of Pocahontas County is again covered with healthy forests, although the magnificent virgin forests of 150 years ago are a sight that will not be seen again. The county's forests now provide a steady supply of timber for a more permanent lumber industry, as well as opportunities for recreation and wildlife habitat.

Picture of loggers who took part in the 1894 log drive down the Greenbrier River to Ronceverte.

Cheat Mountain log dump where logs were skidded to be loaded onto railroad cars for the haul down the mountain to the mill. (Note the railroad cars on the right side of the photo.)

The company is the West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company.

The start of a log drive as men and horses pull and roll logs into Knapps Creek, sending them towards the Greenbrier River and eventually Ronceverte.

Loggers who worked for Smith and Whiting, contractors for the St. Lawrence Boom and Manufacturing Company at a camp near Minnehaha Springs, about 1890.

Loggers on Bird Run, a tributary to Knapps Creek, cutting timber for the Warn Lumber Corporation. The company's mill was located at Raywood.

The Shay locomotive was the workhorse of many a lumber company. The engines in this photo were Nos. 1 and 7 of the North Fork Lumber Company.

The Shay locomotive was an amazing piece of machinery. The transmission of power to all of the wheels by gears gave these engines great power and the ability to ascent grades of well over 8%, steeper than the traditional steam locomotive could handle. They also had flexible connections between each set of wheels which gave the engines the ability to operate on the rough, crooked track of a logging railroad. However, their top speed was only about 12 miles per hour.

Similar locomotives used for logging railroads were the Climax and the Heisler.

Photo of Camp Seneca, CCC camp that was located near the headquarters of Seneca State Forest. The camp was opened in June 1933 and closed in June 1938. Men from this camp worked on conservation programs in the forest and built most of the existing facilities that are still being used by visitors to Seneca State Forest.

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Early settlers who came to the mountainous areas of western Virginia found immense tracts of virgin timber that blotted out the sun, blocked transportation, and provided a major obstacle to farming, the way the settlers made their living. Next to the resistance of the Native Americans to having their land taken, the almost impenetrable forests were probably the biggest problem facing the pioneers. The forest did provide game for food and trees for lumber, but to move about easily on the land, one had to cut down the trees that stood in the way. To farm the land, the settler first had to clear away the trees.

As the country grew after the Civil War and timber supplies elsewhere vanished before the lumberman's saw, the vast timber resources of the new State of West Virginia began to be viewed in another light. Union soldiers who came to Pocahontas and the other counties in eastern West Virginia during the Civil War saw the huge tracts of virgin timber. They also saw a great variety of tree species; along the Greenbrier River and its major tributaries, there were vast stands of white pine; as the mountain rose above the streams, hardwood trees of numerous species grew; at the highest elevations, there were the spruce and hemlock forests.

As the forests of Pennsylvania and other northern states were being cleared, they would remember the timber stands they had seen in West Virginia. In the decades after the Civil War lumber companies began to harvest the timber resource of West Virginia.

In Pocahontas County, the lumber industry flourished in the late Nineteenth Century, as the white pine was cut and floated down the Greenbrier River to Ronceverte, and in the first quarter of the Twentieth Century, after the arrival of railroads in the county. Between the mid-1870's to about 1930 the vast forests of the county were cut and hauled to the mills.

As the mountains and valleys of the counties in eastern West Virginia were cut over, far-sighted individuals began to realize that the area's timber resources needed to be managed better. It was realized that increased flooding in the Ohio River Valley was due at least in part to the stripping of the forest cover in the headwaters. Replanting began to provide a second growth. The Monongahela National Forest was created and began reforestation efforts on the land purchased for the forest. During the 1930's Civilian Conservation Corps camps were established in Pocahontas County, as they were elsewhere in the country. These camps provided work for young men left unemployed by the Great Depression. The men of the CCC were employed in conservation and reclamation work and the development of state parks.

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In March 1907 the effects of the mismanagement of the timber reserves in the counties in the Monongahela River basin were felt when a flood ravaged the Ohio River Valley. Damage to lives and property was extensive. In Pittsburgh damage was \$8 million and the total damages as a result of the flood reached \$100 million (in 1908 dollars).

Following the flood came inquiries by the Congress as to the causes of the flood and the ways to prevent a reoccurrence. The end result was the passage of the Weeks Act of 1911. This law allowed for the purchase of privately owned land for the creation of national forests in the eastern part of the United States. The goal was to reestablish forest cover in the headwaters of the river basins. In 1909 the West Virginia Legislature had passed a law consenting to the purchase of land in the state by the Federal government for a national forest reserve.

From the Weeks Act came the Monongahela National Forest, which began with a land purchase in Tucker County in 1915. In Pocahontas County the first land acquisition for the MNF was in 1923 with the purchase of land on the East Fork of the Greenbrier River from the George Craig and Sons Lumber Company. This set the pattern in Pocahontas County as over the years most of the property owned by the lumber companies in the county came into federal ownership. Under federal management the process of reforestation on the cut over land began.

The effort to bring healthy forest conditions to the mountains of Pocahontas County was aided by the Civilian Conservation Program, one of the most, if not the most, successful of the New Deal programs created by President Franklin Roosevelt to fight the Great Depression. The first CCC camp in Pocahontas County, Camp Thornwood, opened in May 1933. Over the nine years of the CCC program, a total of ten camps were established in the county. The men of the CCC worked on both federal and state land and the results of their efforts are still in evidence today. Watoga State Park, Droop Mountain State Park, and Seneca State Forest were all initially developed by the CCC enrollees. On federal land the work involved road building, forest fire fighting, and reforestation.

At this time the total acreage of the Monongahela National Forest is 909,000, with slightly over a third of that total, 308,800 acres, in Pocahontas County. Today the county's lumber industry is much reduced in size from the boom period of the early years of this century. However, it is a better industry now for the county with a stability not present in the early days. Part of the reason for the stability is the steady supply of timber available from the lands of the Monongahela National Forest. Under multiple use management, the MNF also provides wildlife habitat, watershed protection, recreational opportunities, and protection of special natural areas.

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In 1906 the George Craig and Sons Lumber Company took an action extremely rare for the lumber industry at that time in hiring a trained forester with the intention of establishing a planned reforestation program for its lands. Due to his association with Gifford Pinchot, the first head of the United State Forest Service, lumber company President George F. Craig had become convinced that the future of the lumber industry was dependent on a policy of reforestation and control of forest fires.

The forester was Max Rothkugel, a German, trained in the forestry practices of Europe as well as the forestry school at Cornell University. Rothkugel's first work involved the mapping of the company lands. From this he made the relief map that is hanging on the wall across the room. In 1907 he began the reseeding of the first 150 acres of cut over land using seeds of the larch and Norway spruce.

Unfortunately, the economic recession of 1907 forced the abandonment of the reforestation program and Rothkugel's employment with the company. The company did, however, continue to follow Rothkugel's recommendations. A fire tower was located on Smoke Camp Knob, the highest point on the property, with a telephone line to the office. Fire trails were cleared to provide access to remote areas and the tower was manned during fire season.

In lieu of seed planting, the company instituted the policy of leaving many seed trees of all natural species, based on recommendations from Rothkugel.

The company originally intended to retain its land for reforestation and eventual recutting. However, for a variety of reasons the company decided to sell its land to the Federal government for inclusion in the Monongahela National Forest.

Part of the tree stand planted by Rothkugel exists today and is referred to as the Rothkugel Plantation. Over the years it has been visited by people interested in the results of an early effort in reforestation. It can be seen on Rt. 28 east of Bartow.

Lumber production in pre-Civil War Pocahontas County was on a local basis; produced in the county for consumption in the county. The early settlers cut the trees according to their need for timber and land, giving little thought to producing lumber for sale. For the most part, timber was worthless and the trees had to be cleared for home sites and farm land. The only need was a relatively few trees for building and fencing purposes and for fuel. Also, the method of producing lumber, using the whip saw (see above), was a slow and tedious process. At best two men and a whip saw could produce about 100 feet of lumber per day.

To the owner of a grist mill, however, lumber production could be a means of additional revenue. The same water power that ran the mill stones, could operate a sash saw in the mill. With much less work, daily production of lumber could now be up to 500 feet per day. (See photo on the right) Production was still only for local use; even if a sawmill operator wished to sell lumber beyond the county, there was no way to transport the lumber more than a short distance on the very rudimentary road system that existed until well after the Civil War and the developing railroad network came nowhere close to Pocahontas County.

There is no way knowing who had the first water powered sawmill in the county or where it was located. Among the early operators of such mills were:

McNeel family in the Little Levels  
Valentine Cackley at Mill Point  
Thomas Casebolt and Josiah Beard, Sr., on Locust Creek  
John Ruckman at the mouth of Stamping Creek  
Thomas McNeill on Swago Creek  
Mike Propps on Stony Creek  
James Price at Riverside  
Jacob Warwick at Clover Lick and Dunmore  
John Bradshaw at Huntersville  
Peter Lightner near Minnehaha Springs  
Daniel Kerr on Deer Creek near Boyer

The next development in the production of lumber was the use of steam power and the circular saw. (See sketch on the right) The circular saw was invented in the 18th century but did become common until improvements in technology allowed them to be steam powered. The circular steam mill ranged in size from small portable types that were moved from place to place to large permanent mills.

The first circular saw in Pocahontas County may have been brought in by Federal troops during the Civil War. However, not until the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad was completed through adjoining Greenbrier County in 1872

The band mill of the Warn Lumber Company, located on Stamping Creek near Mill Point. In size of mill, 50,000 feet daily capacity, and years of operation, 1905 - 1913, the Warn operation was typical of lumber companies in Pocahontas County large enough to operate a band sawmill.

The company cut its timber on the headwaters of Cranberry River, including the area around the Cranberry Glades, and Hills Creek, above the falls.

Photo taken 1939 of the interior of water-powered sawmill in Pendleton County, showing the "sash saw" or "up and down saw.

Lumber camp of the West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company. The men cutting the timber generally stayed in the woods and were housed in camps like this one. Their visits to town after a week, month, or more in the woods provide some of the wilder, probably exaggerated, stories from the logging period of the county's history.

The sketches and mill photo on this section of the display are from *Tumult on the Mountain - Lumbering in West Virginia 1770 - 1920* by Roy Clarkson.

The *Marlinton Messenger* was founded by Monroe Meadows and W. B. Sharp, with the first issue printed in October 1900. After two changes of ownership, the name of the paper was changed to *The Republican News* in December 1911. However, it did not long survive under this name and went out of business in February 1914.

Another new paper, *The Pocahontas Independent*, was started in January 1912 with R. A. Kramer as editor. By December 1914 the paper had a new editor, J. Jerome Haddox, and in March of the next year, a new name, *The Marlinton Journal*. This paper was to have the second longest existence of the county's newspapers, after the *Times*.

However, the *Journal* got off to a shaky start, went through three other editors and was suspended in January 1921. But it came to life again in February 1923, under the editorship of William G. Lancaster. The paper survived the February 1928 burning of the building where its office was located. The *Journal* was sold in July 1929 to a company that owned a number of papers in West Virginia. The paper had several editors, including Paul Haddock, until sold to Aubrey and Alma Ferguson in July 1941. It was sold again in November 1950, to Charles J. Eib, and again in October 1953, when Mr. Haddock purchased the paper he previously edited. He was editor until his death in March 1962. His wife, Virginia, succeeded him as editor and continued the paper until selling it in April 1973 to people in Elkins. They changed the name, to *Allegheny Journal*, and changed it to a regional paper. However, the new concept was not a success and the paper ceased publication in May 1974.

The Pocahontas newspaper that had the shortest life was *The Associated Voice*. Located at the former sawmill town of Watoga, it was started in January 1922 to promote the plans of the Watoga Land Association to establish a community for African-Americans. The length of time it was published is not known, but probably not for long.

## Newspapers in Pocahontas County

The first newspaper to be published in Pocahontas County was *The Pocahontas Times*, which was started in Huntersville by James Canfield and Hezekiah Marshall. The first issue was dated May 10, 1883. The ownership of the paper changed several times before being acquired by the Rev. William T. Price and two of his sons, Andrew and James, in November 1892. Shortly before, in May 1892, the paper had been moved from Huntersville to Marlinton, following the vote to change the location of the county seat.

In August 1901 the paper moved to its fourth location in Marlinton when it occupied the building on Second Avenue where it is still located today.

Over the years the masthead of the *Times* varied as younger members of the Price Family became involved with the paper. The youngest, Calvin, began working on the paper in 1896 and in May 1906 became the sole owner and editor. Calvin held the editor's position until his death on June 14, 1957. During the years of his editorship, he became noted as the "Sage of Pocahontas" and well known for his nature writings and leadership in the conservation movement in West Virginia.

Following Calvin as editor was his daughter, Jane Price Sharp. She served in this position until December 1981 when William Price McNeil became the editor. The most recent change in editorship came in January 2006 with Pamela Pritt assuming this role.

For more than 120 years the *Times* has recorded the lives and doings of the people of Pocahontas County and continues in this role today. Issues of the *Times* exist from 1889 and microfilm of the file is available at the McClintic Library in Marlinton.

In May 1894, a second newspaper, *The Pocahontas Herald*, was started in Huntersville by A. L. Dilley and Kenneth Dilley. They sold it in December 1894 to Samuel B. Scott for \$375. The paper was moved to Marlinton but ceased publication by the end of July 1896.

## ATWATER KENT RADIO AND SPEAKER

Model 35 radio  
Manufactured in 1926

Beecher Meadows

## ATWATER KENT RADIO AND SPEAKER

Model 21 radio  
Manufactured in 1925

Atwater Kent radios were made by the Atwater Kent Manufacturing Company in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The company was founded in 1895 by Arthur Atwater Kent (1873 - 1949) and produced electrical equipment. In 1922 his company began making components for radios and the following year produced a complete radio. By 1929 Atwater Kent was the largest maker of radios in the United States. The company closed in 1936 following a decline in business due to the Depression.

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**Items from the  
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home,  
Buffalo, New  
York**

Candlestick - Mandy  
Loan Tanksley  
Glass - Beulah Loan  
Landis  
Cup - Laura Loan  
Blackwell

**Carnival Glass**

**Shell and Jewell  
Pattern**

**1920s**

Made by the West-  
moreland Glass Company  
in Grapeville, Pennsyl-  
vania

**Items from the  
Andrew Loan  
home,  
Buffalo, New  
York**

Candlestick - Mandy  
Loan Tanksley  
Glass - Beulah Loan  
Landis  
Cup - Laura Loan  
Blackwell

**Carnival Glass**

**Shell and Jewell  
Pattern**

**1920s**

Made by the West-  
moreland Glass Company  
in Grapeville, Pennsyl-  
vania

## CALVIN W. PRICE

This case contains items concerning Calvin W. Price, long-time editor of *The Pocahontas Times*.

He was the youngest son of the Rev. and Mrs. William T. Price, born in Mt. Clinton, Virginia, on November 22, 1800. In 1885 the family returned to Rev. Price's hometown, Marlin's Bottom. In 1892, Rev. Price and his two older sons purchased the *Times*.

Calvin began working on the paper in 1896 and became part of ownership, Price Brothers, in 1900. In May 1906 he assumed ownership and editorship of the paper. He served in these roles until his death on June 14, 1957.

During his long tenure with the *Times*, Calvin Price became noted both as a typical country editor, his nature writings, and for his support of conservation of the state and nation's natural resources. He was honored in 1954 by the naming of the Calvin W. Price State Forest. His fellow journalists named him to the West Virginia Journalism Hall of Fame. He was also active in church and community affairs, including scouting, volunteer fire department, and various civic groups. He did not have a formal college education, but was high intelligent, had a keen memory, and read widely. In 1942, he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws decree by West Virginia University. A noted historian on both local and family history, Price was sought after as a speaker.